3. THE NON-TECHNICAL ABSTRACT

Follicular lymphoma is generally considered incurable using conventional therapy. While the disease process may be slow growing, the median long-term survival is unfortunately only 7 to 9 years. One way to improve survival may be to enhance the patient's immune response against their lymphoma. To accomplish this, we have developed a strategy to infuse large numbers of lymphoma-specific T cells. This is achieved using genetic techniques to modify the patient's own T cells to be specific for their follicular lymphoma. In this initial protocol the lymphoma-specific T cells are expanded in the laboratory using meticulous growth conditions and given to selected recipients who are at high risk of dying from their disease. Subcutaneous injections of IL-2 will be given to help support the survival of the infused T cells. Since this study is designed to test the safety and feasibility of using genetically modified T cells in a small number of research participants, the recipients of these infusions will be closely monitored for signs of toxicity. Furthermore, data will be collected on how well the lymhoma-specific T cells function in the body. Additional studies will probably be necessary to determine the ability of the genetically modified T cells to alter patient survival.